

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Articles of Faith

These Articles of Faith were originally drawn up and agreed in 1935. They were revised by the church membership at Emmanuel Baptist Church and agreed by the Old Baptist Union in May 1996. A further revision was made and agreed in 2005

This most recent document was revised and agreed by church meeting in September 2013 and agreed by the Old Baptist Union in June 2014

Emmanuel Baptist Church is a local expression of the universal Christian Church. As a gathered community of God's people, we meet to worship; pray; study and follow God's word; share our faith and serve the wider community.

Emmanuel Baptist Church was founded in 1905 and moved to Howard Road in 1921. In May 2013, the Church moved to its present building on Victoria Avenue. It is a member church of the Old Baptist Union, a small group of wholly evangelical Baptist Churches, established in 1830. The Church is also affiliated to the Southern Counties Baptist Association through which it is able to enjoy the fellowship and share the work of Baptists in the immediate locality. It is the policy of the Church to co - operate wherever possible with other Christians in Swanage in advancing Christ's Kingdom in the town.

Every church member should read carefully the Church's doctrinal basis and constitution, copies are available on request from the Church Administrator.

Articles of Faith

We believe with all our hearts in the only true and living God, the Creator and Preserver of all things, visible and invisible; and that in the true unity of this Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

- “Baptising them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt.28:19).
- “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all”(2 Cor. 13:14).

We believe in the full inspiration of the Bible, accepting it as the Word of God, and regarding its teaching as of supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

- “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:16,17)
- “For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit”. (2 Peter 1:21).
- “Your Word is truth” (John 17:17)

We believe in the Bible doctrine of the Fall of Man, and in his consequent need of redemption through the atoning sacrifice of Christ, and of regeneration through the Holy Spirit. We believe also that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance for which cause Christ commanded that the Gospel should be preached to every creature.

- “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.” (Rom 5:12)
- “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8)
- “That Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, “You must be born again.” (John 3:6, 7)
- “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

We believe that, by His grace, and through the merits of Jesus Christ, God has made full provision for the salvation of all men, but that those only will be saved who repent of their sins, and accept Christ, by faith as their Saviour.

- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)
- “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

- “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” (John 3: 18)

We believe that all who truly repent and believe the Gospel should be baptized by immersion.

- “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19)
- “Repent, and be baptized every one of you” (Acts 2:38)
- “We are buried with Him by baptism into death” (Rom. 6:4)

We believe that those who are baptized should receive the “laying on of hands” in accordance with New Testament teaching and practice.

- “Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit” (Acts 8:17)
- “Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment” (Heb 6:1,2)
- “Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.” (1Tim 4:14)

We believe in the Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ; and in His Deity and absolute Sinlessness.

- “The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God’”(Luke 1:35)
- “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”(Heb. 1:1-3)
- “But about the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever’” (Heb 1:8)
- “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” (1Peter 2:22)

We believe in Christ’s death upon the Cross as an atoning sacrifice for sin; we believe in his bodily Resurrection; in His Ascension into Heaven, there to “appear in the presence of God for us”, and in His personal Coming Again to receive His people to Himself, and to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

- “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” (1 Peter 1:18, 19)
- “Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” (1 Cor 15:3,4)

- “After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.” (Hebrews 1:3)
- “So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him” (Heb 9:28)
- “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever” (1 Thess 4:16, 17)
- “I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge.They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.” (Rev 20:4)

We believe in the infallibility of Christ as a Teacher.

- “because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.” (Matt 7:29)
- “There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day.” (John 12:48)
- “I have given them your word.” (John 17:14)

We believe in the Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit, and in His continued presence in the Church, and that His gifts may still be claimed and exercised, subject to His will.

- “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Cor 13:14)
- “Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit....You have not lied just to human beings but to God.’” (Acts 5:3,4)
- “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.” (1 Cor 12: 4, 11)
- “for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.” (Rom 11:29)

We believe in the existence of a personal Devil, the arch enemy of God and man, who deceives the whole world; and that, although his power is still great on earth, he is a defeated foe, doomed to final destruction.

- “Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” (Matt 4:1)
- “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.” (1 Peter 5: 8,9)
- “And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur. (Rev 20:10)

We believe that man is a being consisting of body, soul and spirit. We believe that the spirit can exist independently of the body, and that it continues in a state of consciousness between death and resurrection.

- “spirit, soul and body” (1Thess 5:23)
- “and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.” (Eccles 12:7)
- “I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God. They called out in a loud voice,” (Rev 6:9,10)
- “While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit’” (Acts 7:59)

We believe, but without being extremists, in the present day possibility and privilege of Divine Healing.

- “to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit” (1 Cor 12:9)
- “Is anyone among you ill? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. ” (James 5:14, 15)

We believe that we should observe the Lord’s Supper in accordance with our Saviour’s injunction.

- “the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” (1 Cor 11:23-26)

We believe in the resurrection of the body, in the glorification of the redeemed, and in the “everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord” of the finally impenitent.

- “for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out – those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned” (John 5:28,29)
- “And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality. ” (1Cor 15:49, 53)
- “The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” (Matt13:41-43)
- “Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Rev 20:15)

We believe in the need of obedience to “all things whatsoever” Christ has commanded; and that the way of obedience is the way of sanctification, power and blessing.

- “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matt 4: 4)
- “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified” (1 Thess 4:3)

- “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth.” (1Peter 1:22)
- “to obedience, which leads to righteousness” (Rom 6:16)
- “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (John14:21)

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